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Telangana in financial distress: Revanth Reddy

Telangana's financial situation is pretty bad and the government is unable to raise funds as bankers don't trust it, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said on Monday. He said bankers are looking at representatives of the government as 'thieves'. The comments came in response to demands from government employees for higher wages | **P5**

Russian President accepts Modi's invitation to visit India for annual high-level meeting

Putin calls PM, supports fight against terror

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Monday expressed full support to India in its fight against terror, emphasising during a phone call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi that those responsible for the heinous attack in Pahalgam —and their supporters— must be brought to justice.

The conversation took place ahead of a closed-door United Nations Security Council meeting requested by Pakistan.

"He (President Putin) conveyed deepest condolences on the loss of innocent lives and expressed full support to India in the fight against terrorism. He emphasised that the perpetrators of the heinous attack and their supporters must be brought to justice," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"Both sides emphasised the need for an uncompromising fight against terrorism in all its forms," said the readout from Russia. Highlighting the "strategic nature of Russian-Indian relations as a special and privileged partnership," President Putin reiterated that the relationship is not "subject to external influence and continues to develop dynamically across all areas."

Modi invited Putin for the annual summit to be held in India later in the year which was accepted by the Russian leader.

Pakistan, currently serving as a non-permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council, called for the meeting amid rising tensions with India.

Greece, which holds the Council presidency for May, has scheduled the session for the afternoon of May 5. The meeting is scheduled to start at 12.30 am IST, Tuesday.

JAPAN ON SAME PAGE

Visiting Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani met his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh and offered "full support" to India's war against terror

PAR PANEL SEEKS INFO

A Parliamentary panel sought details from two ministries on the action they planned against social media platforms that "seem to be working against national interest"

STOP FUND, ADB URGED

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made a strong pitch to ADB to stop giving funds to Pakistan as it backs terror activities

All gates of Salal Dam on the Chenab river in Reasi district, J&K, closed | PTI

HOLD MOCK DRILLS, GOVT TELLS STATES

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday chaired a series of high-level meetings with senior government officials after an earlier meeting with Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh amid indications that a military response to the Pahalgam massacre is around the corner.

The government has already weaponised the Indus Waters Treaty by shutting a couple of dams on the Chenab after flushing out their silt.

The Union home Ministry issued an advisory to several states asking them to conduct mock drills on May 7 for effective preparedness of the civil defence system.

The meeting Modi had with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Home Secretary Govind Mohan and senior military officials is learnt to have focused on the final stages of preparedness against the perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack. It went on for over an hour.

Earlier in the day, Modi had a 40-minute meeting with the defence secretary. Defence chiefs have already briefed the PM individually and jointly on their preparedness for retaliation against rogue elements fostering terror.

The home ministry's advisory to hold mock drills as part of emergency preparedness, indicates India has firmed up some military action against Pakistan that could be executed after May 7, remarked a source. **P5**

U.N. URGES MAXIMUM RESTRAINT

UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Monday expressed grave concerns about the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, saying that the relationship between the two countries has reached a "boiling point" and that tensions are at their "highest in years". He warned that "military confrontation can spin out of control".

No interim order on Waqf Act, matter transferred to next CJI

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday said that a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act will now be taken up by a bench headed by Chief Justice of India-designate Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai on May 15.

During the hearing on Monday, the court said that the Centre has raised some points on registration of Waqf properties, which would require detailed hearing. "I do not want to reserve any judgment, or even interim order, at this stage. This matter will have to be heard on a reasonably early date and this will not be before me. If you all agree, we post it before a bench of Justice Gavai," said, the CJI Sanjiv Khanna, who is set to retire on May 13.

Senior advocate Salman Khurshid addresses the media in New Delhi | PTI

All the parties accepted the court's suggestion to fix May 15 as the next date to hear the batch of petitions.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, senior law officer for the Centre, assured the court that it would neither denotify waqf properties, including 'waqf by user', nor make any appointments to the Central Waqf Council and boards till further hearing.

The court was hearing five petitions—out of more than 100 filed before it—after noting that it was impossible to hear all the pleas in the matter, as more or less, the prayers were strikingly similar.

The Centre on April 25 defended the Waqf Amendment Act, 2025, as valid, lawful exercise of legislative power.

"It is a settled position in law that the constitutional courts would not stay a statutory provision, either directly or indirectly, and will decide the matter finally," said, the Centre, in its reply filed before the top court.

EXPRESS READ

Sonu apologises hours after film chamber 'ban'

BENGALURU: Hours after Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) decided to 'ban' Sonu Nigam, the singer tendered an apology through Instagram on Monday. **P3**

Justice Varma row: Panel submits report to CJI

NEW DELHI: The SC-appointed three-judge panel on Monday submitted its inquiry report to CJI Sanjiv Khanna on the cash discovery allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma. **P9**

Caste census begins, Siddu firm on internal quota for SCs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH Justice Nagamohan Das Commission launching a census targeting 101 castes among the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday declared that his government is committed to implementing internal reservation for the SCs.

"The commission is expected to submit its report within 60 days of data collection. After this, the government will finalise the reservation pattern. We are committed to implementing internal reservation as soon as the commission submits its report," Siddaramaiah said.

He was addressing a press conference with his cabinet colleagues DyCM DK Shivakumar, Social Welfare Minister Dr HC Mahadevappa, Backward Classes Development Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi and Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa.

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